

Food Security through Local Wisdom: Seren Taun Tradition and Leuit Rice Storage System in Kasepuhan Cipta Mulya, Indonesia

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1) Background

Climate change increases rainfall variability, floods, and droughts, threatening agricultural productivity and rural food security in Indonesia (IPCC, 2023; Azizah *et al.* 2022). The Kasepuhan Cipta Mulya community in West Java sustains an indigenous farming system based on ancestral harmony with nature (Firmansyah *et al.* 2019). Central to this system are the Seren Taun harvest ritual, which symbolizes gratitude and social cohesion, and the Leuit, a traditional rice granary that ensures household food supply. Understanding these practices is important to explore how local wisdom contributes to food security and livelihood resilience amid climate change (Herlianti & Sanjaya, 2022).

3) Result

Seren Taun serves as an annual agricultural ceremony that expresses gratitude for this year's harvest and symbolizes the community's harmonious relationship with nature and ancestral spirits. This ceremony marks the completion of the agricultural cycle and serves as a collective expression of gratitude for agricultural abundance.



The harvested rice is stored in the Leuit, a traditional household granary. The design of the Leuit effectively maintains air circulation and prevents pest and moisture intrusion, allowing rice to be preserved for more than 25 years without significant quality deterioration (Munijah *et al.* 2024).



2) Methods



In-depth
Interview



22-23 March
2025



Kasepuhan Cipta
Mulya, West Java

Informants



Abah
(customary leader)



Village head



Penghulu
(religious leader)



kokolot lembur
(customary elder)

4) Discussion

The agricultural system of Kasepuhan Cipta Mulya reflects an indigenous model of self-sufficiency grounded in cultural values and ecological balance. The Seren Taun ritual expresses gratitude for the harvest and collective responsibility. Land ownership is inherited through ancestral lineage, ensuring long-term stewardship. Although rice is harvested only once a year, strong food security is maintained through the Leuit system, in which every household owns a granary for storing its own harvest. The rice is reserved solely for family consumption and cannot be sold, allowing households to remain food-secure even during disasters or poor harvests.

By integrating Seren Taun and Leuit, the community sustains a resilient system that links cultural values with practical resource management. The case of Kasepuhan Cipta Mulya demonstrates that local wisdom can provide a sustainable strategy for achieving long-term food security and livelihood resilience. Offering a model that aligns with global frameworks to improve sustainable food systems and rural well-being.